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Grant of loan to Sri J. L. P. Roche Victoria by the Tuticorin Co-operative Urban Bank, Limited.

* 228 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it was discovered by the Departmental authorities that the Tuticorin Co-operative Urban Bank, Limited, granted a loan of Rs. 80,000 to one Sri Roche Victoria, the then President of the Bank, far exceeding the lending and borrowing limits prescribed by the bye-laws of the Bank;

(*b*) if so, the action taken, if any, against the persons involved in such irregularities;

(*c*) whether the loan or the excess amount at least was recovered from the said member; and

(*d*) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) Sri J. L. P. Roche Victoria was never granted any loan from the Bank.

" (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Do not arise."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR:—" During the last Budget session, some extracts were read from one journal, 'Hindu Madhabimani' by the hon. Member, Sri M. Kalyanasundram and the Government promised to look into them and if necessary to investigate and make enquiries. Did the Government make any enquiries and take steps in that direction?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" A separate question may be put."

Prevention of Harijans from entering the Mariamman temple at Poolambadi, South Arcot.

* 229 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Harijans of Poolambadi of Virudhunagar, South Arcot district, were refused temple entry by the Caste Hindus (Odiars) of Neeramani at the Mariamman temple on 1st August 1954;

(*b*) whether among the persons so refused temple entry there were many policemen and Revenue Officers including Tahsildars and public men including a Harijan M.L.A.;

(*c*) whether any representation has been made by any M.L.A. to the Government in the matter; and

(*d*) whether any action has been taken by the Government under the Temple Entry Act and the Removal of Social Disabilities Act?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) It is reported that during the Chittrai festival in the temple referred to, certain Harijans of Poolambadi were prevented from entering the temple, because they wanted to go to the *sanctum sanctorum* and break coconuts there, which is against established custom and which nobody, except poojaris, is allowed to do.

" (*b*) The Government have no information.

" (*c*) Yes. A representation was received from Sri M. Kattimuthu, M.L.A.

" (*d*) Does not arise."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" இந்தக் குறிப்பிட்ட கோயிலில் ஹரிஜன நல டைரக்டர், தாசில்தார், ஹரிஜன சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்கள் உட்பட இன்னும் நூற்றுக்கணக்கான ஹரிஜனங்கள் எத்தனை முறை அந்தக் கோயிலுக்குப்போக முயற்சிசெய்தார்கள் ? ஏன் கோயில் பூட்டப்பட்டு அவர்கள் உள்ளே போக முடியவில்லை என்று கூற முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" As I said, if the Harijans of Poolambadi are prepared to honour the usages and customs of that temple, the poojaris of the temple at Neeramani have no objection to allow the Harijans entry into the temple. Also, instructions have been issued to the poojaris of the temple, informing them that if they put any restrictions upon the entry of Harijans of Poolambadi, necessary action would be taken against them under the appropriate enactment. Now, Sir, I may tell for the information of the hon. Member, that Sri Kattimuthu, M.L.A., has been appointed as the trustee of the temple."

SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know how many temples in the district are still not opened to Harijans and what steps the Government propose to take to see that all the temples are opened to Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That is a separate question."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" ஸார், ஆலயப் பிரவேசம் வெற்றிகரமாக நடைபெற வேண்டுமானால் ஆலயங்களின் நிர்வாகத்திற்கு ஹரிஜன வகுப்பைச் சேர்ந்த எக்ஸிக்யூடிவ் ஆபீசர்களை நியமிப்பது நல்லது என்பதை அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் ஆலோசித்து அம்மாதிரி செய்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Wherever necessary and wherever possible, Executive Officers are being appointed from the Harijan community."

11-40 a.m. SRI A. RATNAM :—" ஹரிஜன எம்.எல்.ஏ. ஸ்ரீ எம். கட்டிமுத்து அவர்களை அந்தக் கோயிலுக்கு டிரஸ்டியாக நியமித்த பிறகும் ஹரிஜனங்கள் அந்தக் கோயிலில் நுழையக்கூடாதென்பதற்காக கோவில் பூட்டப்பட்டது வாஸ்தவமா ? நூற்றுக் கணக்கானவர்கள் மூலஸ்தானத்திற்கு நுழைவதற்கு சட்டம் இடமளிக்காததன் காரணமாக பல மாதங்கள் அவர்கள் முயற்சிசெய்தும் பலனளிக்கவில்லை. ஆகவே, சட்டத்திற்குத் தகுந்த திருத்தங்களைக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு சர்க்கார் முன்வருவார்களா ? "

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, in a matter like this, we have to make a very cautious approach. Any false step taken will only embitter the feelings between the caste Hindus and Harijans. The Government have appointed Sri M. Kattimuthu as a trustee and he is assisted by the Assistant Commissioner of Religious Endowments. Every step is being taken to see that harmonious relationship exists between the caste Hindus and Harijans in the matter of entry into that small temple."

Opening of Higher Elementary Standards in the Board Elementary School, South Thrikkarpur.

* 230 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Board, South Kanara, has recommended to the Government to convert the South Thrikkarpur Board Elementary School into a Higher Elementary School; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Government have since sanctioned the opening of Higher Elementary standards in the Board Elementary School, South Thrikkarpur, under the educational programme for relieving educated unemployment in this State."

Collection of sales tax from co-operative societies.

* 231 *Q.*—DR. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the average collection of sales tax per year from co-operative societies in (*a*) the State, and (*b*) Malabar?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
" (*a*) Rs. 58,80,000.
" (*b*) Rs. 21,24,000."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware that it is not possible for the co-operative stores to compete with private stores practising the subterfuges that the private dealers resort to and that it is impossible for Co-operative Stores, either wholesale or retail, to survive unless they are exempted from the payment of sales tax or other taxes? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
" Certain concessions are given in the case of co-operative societies. But we cannot be extending the concessions in each and every sector."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Member put a question insinuating that private dealers resort to subterfuges? "